

With ever more channels, there are few in the way of real information that the public needs to assess the workings of its' government. Past consolidations have led us to the brink of losing our cherished democracy. You have a duty to protect the broadcasting spectrum for the entire public, not just a handful of corporations. We need to stop the corporatocracy that is ruining the ideals this nation needs to move forward in an ever-changing world.

Decentralization of POWER in the form of a variety of media owners with rules that favor more, not fewer, owners should be a top priority of the FCC. American's have stood by and watched as our media has been sold to the largest corporations and it must stop. Their economies of scale dictate that fewer owners will homogenize our information and take us back to the partisan press of old. And we know all too well how the corporate entities interpret voluntary compliance.

As a broadcast journalist who now analyzes media content for Information Operations, I believe that your logic is as faulty as the assertion that the Iraqi aluminum tubes were for high grade nuclear production. We desperately need debate in this country and the continuous assertion that consolidation will help is anti-American at its core; it could possibly be the highest national security risk yet! I would venture to say that future generations, if they know the facts of what has happened since the Reagan/Fowler administration will call what you are contemplating treasonous in this time of war against America's freedoms--and it is being backed by our own government.

The social forces you will put in play through this nonsense will end badly, for the United States and others who duplicate our systems.

STOP this consolidation and look to the public interest before we have a huge mess that will take forever to sort out--if at all. Decide to submit your decisions to the public interest and turn this faulty policy around--decentralize the corporate POWER instead of using double speak and trickery to benefit the few. Do what is right for our nation for once--before we wake up to find that the American Dream was a fleeting vision that has no power in the new media ecology you are designing.

STOP!

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STOP CONSOLIDATION!

If terrorism and insurgency, and the attendant infrastructure damage associated with terrorist acts has taught information operations anything, it is that centralization and consolidation lack the fundamental social-systems properties to generate new ideas and adapt around portions of the system under attack. Your consolidation of ownership takes us one step closer to centralized information that does not fit heterogeneous social dynamics necessary for the public to assess and adapt to complex socio-political environments and cannot, therefore, benefit democracy. You are paving the way for two classes of information, with the public left in the dark. When there is an information breach

coupled with lack of transparency, there is also a cultural breach that leads to resistance and revolution--and if it is not dealt with peacefully through change in policy that trends toward transparency and heterogeneity, there will be ensuing chaos that will destroy any information infrastructure necessary to reconnect to a diverse public. Take heed--the steps you are contemplating will vest power into the hands of those whose agendas are not democratic and egalitarian, nor is their interest that of the government or the public--unless that is, we no longer have even the vestiges of a functioning democracy in this country.

THINK! Read your history. And stop this consolidation of corporate power before government and the public that confers power to it is marginalized and democracy is finished. And please do not pass this policy action off as free market functions in your propaganda...we are not stupid. These are public resources that need to be administered with a view toward public interest rather than corporate profit.

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I am writing to express my strong disapproval of any relaxation or elimination of the public interest limits on media ownership. Localism and diversity are the cornerstones of a democratic media system, and we cannot afford to compromise them in any way.

Limits on media consolidation have been a bulwark against the concentration of economic power in the marketplace of ideas -- a critical part of balancing the public service mission of the media with their private profit motive. Our democracy requires the free flow of information from a broad range of diverse voices.

Any public policy seeking to protect diversity in the media must recognize the simple fact that ownership matters. Media consolidation has already led to declines in local and minority ownership as well as the homogenization of content in radio and television. Permitting cross-ownership of newspapers and broadcast stations, or allowing further concentration in local television markets, will only worsen the problems we already have.

When the FCC attempted to weaken and remove media ownership limits in 2003, millions of Americans rose up in protest. Congress and the courts ultimately intervened to turn back that misguided regulatory process.

Now that these same rules are being reconsidered, the FCC should stand firm with the public against further concentration of media ownership in the hands of the few. A vote against media consolidation is a vote for democracy.